



Summer Newsletter

June - August 2014

Cicada Invasion



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Park District News

Chris Clingman, Director

As I see the progress that some of our parks have made, it is easy to forget how quickly time goes by. One of the biggest projects the Park District has ever undertaken was the renovation of the Chilo Lock 34 powerhouse into a visitor center and museum on the banks of the Ohio River. Next summer will mark the 10th anniversary of its opening. Meanwhile, the Hartman Log Cabin was opened in 1992, marking its 22nd anniversary this year. Five years have passed since the The Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike Trail's bridge over Cain Run was put in place. Aletheia Pattison donated the first piece of Pattison Park 42 years ago. As we look back on the progress we've made over the 44 years of the Park District's existence, we are also looking ahead as we begin to prepare for the future. In just 6 years the Park District will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.



*Grand Opening of the
Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum
August, 2005.*

With an eye on that anniversary, the Park District Board of Commissioners started working on a comprehensive master plan. While the size of the Park District has expanded from about 275 acres in 2000 to over 600 acres today, our operating budget during that time has shrunk. The 2014 operating budget of approximately \$550,000 is smaller than the 2004 budget. The park commissioners have responsibly balanced the five years of declining budgets by reducing personnel and total staff hours, freezing salaries, deferring equipment replacement and large capital projects, and increasing rental fees. Going forward, the park commissioners will need to make decisions on what kinds of parks and activities to offer for the citizens of Clermont County. The master plan will provide a framework for making those decisions. Watch our website for updates and an opportunity to view the plan.



Ohio's only brood of 13 year Cicadas have been putting on quite a show at Chilo Lock 34 Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve. They have attracted the attention of researchers from as far away as Japan. Dr. Jin Yoshimura and graduate student Takuya Koyama from Shizuoka University spent an evening at Crooked Run witnessing the emergence of the nymphs from the ground. Dr. Gene Kritsky of the College of Mt. St. Joseph has been gathering information from local citizens to help him map the brood. Samuel Orr, from Indiana, has been here filming the emergence for a documentary on cicadas that should eventually air on PBS. Another researcher, Chris Simon from the University of Connecticut is anxious to do some DNA testing on cicadas collected here to try and determine their origin, or if other broods originated from this brood. This brood is of particular interest to researchers. In previous years its emergence was always linked to another brood's emergence. So researchers in 2001 didn't agree that this brood in Clermont County and Northern Kentucky was a separate brood. This year's emergence proved it. It took waiting 13 years to get the answer. What will the Park District look like the next time they emerge in 2027? Only time will tell.

For more information on cicadas, read the article on page 7 of the newsletter.

Naturalist Programs

Illuminating Insects

Thursday June 26th

8:30 pm

Sycamore Park

Join the naturalist as we explore the fascinating world of fireflies.

Discover how and why these small beetles flash during early summer evenings.

We'll search the park for these illuminating insects that have captured the curiosity of generations of children. Bring a jar or container to catch bugs in. All lightning bugs will be released after the program. Meet at Sycamore woods picnic shelter.

[Photo: Terry Priest via Flickr](#)



Southern Ohio T's

Cooker tour

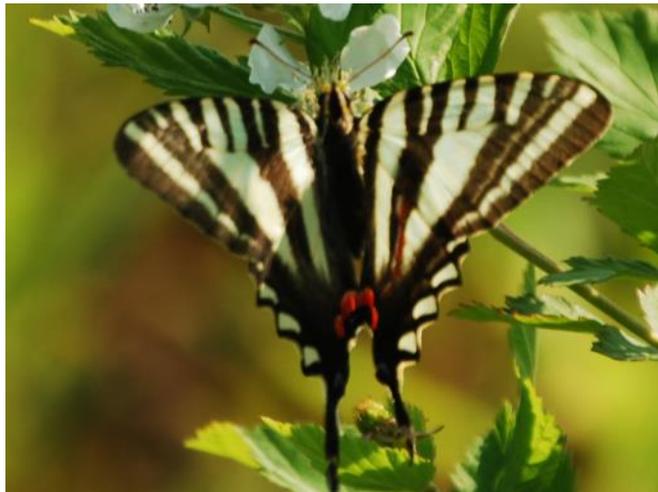
Sunday June 29th

1:00 pm

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Visit with the Southern Ohio model

T club as they bring their antique cars to Chilo Lock 34 Park for a picnic. They'll be cooking their lunch on the engine manifold as they drive. Stop in and see these early American automobiles and discover how they're able to cook while driving.



Shor Park Tour

Wednesday July 9th

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Shor Park

Join the Park District and staff from the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District for a guided tour of the newly renovated Shor Park. The recently completed renovations include habitat improvements, wetland restoration, a rain garden, and interpretive signage. The project was a collaborative effort between the Park District and the Clermont SWCD to demonstrate how to minimize water pollution and the effects of storm water runoff. Registration required.

[Please click here to sign up.](#)

<http://clermontswcd.org/events.aspx>



Paddling the Little Miami

Friday July 11

Kelley Nature Preserve

10:00 am

The Park District is partnering with *Roads, Rivers, and Trails Outfitters* to offer a fun day on the water. We'll provide the canoes, you provide the power. Explore the wonderful scenery that makes the Little Miami River a dedicated state and national Scenic River. Space is limited. **Call 513-876-9013 to sign up.** **Deadline to register is Thursday July 3rd.** For safety reasons, children under the age of 4 are not permitted.



RRT
ROADS RIVERS AND TRAILS



Photo: Leslie Huggard

Preschool Storytime

2nd Wednesdays of the month

11:00 am

Sycamore Park

Join our naturalist and a librarian from the Batavia branch of the Clermont County Public Library for our monthly preschool program. Listen to a story, make a craft, and discover more about our local wildlife.

Preschool Storytime

Wednesday July 9

11:00 am

Sycamore Park Butterflies

Listen to a story, make a butterfly craft, then take a hike in search of these winged wonders.



Meet at Sycamore # 1 Shelter. (nearest the park entrance)

Wednesday August 13

11:00 am

Sycamore Park Snakes

Make a snake craft, then meet a live snake up close and in person.

Meet at Sycamore # 1 Shelter (nearest the park entrance).



Hiking Basics

Saturday August 2

10:00 am

Sycamore Park/Wilson Nature Preserve

Join our experts from *Roads, Rivers, and Trails Outfitters* for a day of instruction on what to pack, what to wear, and places to go. Then practice your new skills on a day hike through Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve. The hike will last approximately 90 minutes and the trails are moderately strenuous.



Crooked Run by Canoe

Friday August 8



Crooked Run State Nature Preserve

10:00 am

Explore Clermont County's only state dedicated nature preserve by canoe. We'll begin our journey at Chilo Lock 34 Park and paddle up the Ohio River for about one mile before reaching the mouth of Crooked Run estuary. Once in the backwaters of Crooked Run, we'll explore and search for kingfishers, great blue herons, turtles, and other native wildlife. Space is limited. **Call 513-876-9013 to sign up. Deadline to register is Friday August 1.** For safety reasons, children under the age of 4 are not permitted.



Clermont County YMCA At Sycamore Park

The Clermont Family YMCA will be offering free exercise classes at Sycamore Park this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to sample one of their many classes in an outdoor setting. A different class will be offered each Saturday. For more information on the classes contact Gail Erhardt at the Clermont Family YMCA at 724-9622.

Saturday July 12 **Yoga** **9:30 am**
Saturday July 19 **Bootcamp** **9:30 am**
Saturday July 26 **Tai Chi** **9:30 am**

Saturday August 2

Dog Days of Summer

9:30—10:30 Pet Bootcamp

10:45-11:15 Nose to Toes

Care for cats and dogs presented by Vickie McGraw, Clermont County Animal Shelter kennel manager.



Photo: Leslie Huggard



Volunteer Opportunity

The Park District is working to eradicate invasive honeysuckle in portions of the Wilson Nature Preserve this summer and fall. If you have a love of nature and the outdoors, or are looking for ways to donate your time, then we could use your help.

Honeysuckle Removal

Tuesdays July 8 & 22

Tuesdays August 19 & 26

9:00 AM to Noon

Wilson Nature Preserve

Bring your gloves and strong back as we remove the non-native Bush Honeysuckle from along the East Fork of the Little Miami River in the Wilson Nature Preserve. Removing the honeysuckle will improve habitat for the federally endangered Indiana Bat and improve conditions for our native wildflowers. Tools will be provided. Pre-registration is helpful, but not required by emailing to

parkdistrict@clermontcountyohio.gov

Have a group that wants to help? Contact us and we will try to set a day and time that works for your group.

the BATAVIA theatre project

The Batavia Theatre Project is a new local theatre company preparing to kickoff its inaugural season. Based in the village of Batavia, the new theatre company will be partnering with the Clermont County Park District this summer to present several showings of the famous Shakespeare play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Sycamore Park.

The Shakespeare in the Park performances will be free and open to the public. For more information on performance times and the rest of the Batavia Theatre Project's preview season visit their website at www.BataviaTheatreProject.com.



The Batavia Theatre Project presents...
Shakespeare in the Park

A Midsummer Night's Dream
August 1,2,3,7,16, and 17
Sycamore Park

More information and performance times can be
found at

www.bataviatheatreproject.com



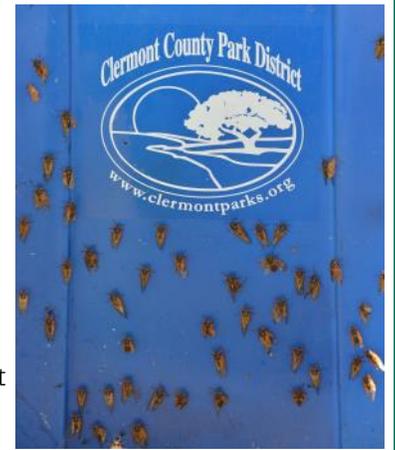
Shakespeare



New Brood of Cicadas at Chilo Lock 34 Park

Keith Robinson, Naturalist

Chilo Lock 34 Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve were in the epicenter this year of the emergence of a brood of 13 year cicadas. The last time this particular brood of cicadas emerged was during the spring and summer of 2001. This time around entomologists including Dr. Gene Kritsky from the College of Mt. St. Joseph, were able to prove what they have thought for some time, that this brood of cicadas was indeed on a 13 year cycle, not the more well known 17 year cycle. Making it even more significant is that this is the only brood of 13 year cicadas to be found in Ohio. Dr. Kritsky also studied the emergence in 2001, but had to wait until they emerged again, before he could be sure that it was indeed a new brood.



Though this brood (known as brood XXII) has likely been here all along, its existence was sometimes mistaken for the 17 year cicadas. After Dr. Kritsky began doing research, he discovered that this same brood of 13 year cicadas were first reported in the Cincinnati Enquirer as having emerged in 1897. Looking back on historical records, and further complicating the known identity of brood XXII is that twice, the emergence of the 13 year cicadas coincided with an emergence of one of the two 17-year broods in our area. Thus, making it difficult to distinguish which brood was on a 13 year cycle, and which was on a 17 year cycle. In 1923 brood XXII emerged at the same time as brood XIV (which last emerged in Clermont County in 2008). Again, in 1936, brood XXII emerged at the same time as a completely different brood of 17 year cicadas. This time, they overlapped with brood X (which last emerged on the western and northern side of Cincinnati in 2004).



Though these cicadas don't live long as adults, they do have a very long life span, especially in the insect world. Once the eggs are hatched, the young nymphs will fall to the ground and burrow underground where they'll feed on the juices from tree roots for the next 13 (or 17, depending on the brood) years. During the year of their emergence, the nymphs will slowly make their way to the surface, tunneling through the soil. Their emergence is directly tied to the soil temperature, and most will begin emerging once the temperature of the soil exceeds 64 F (typically mid to late May in southwest Ohio). After emerging, the nymphs will find the nearest tree, plant, or other structure they can climb, and begin to shed their exoskeleton. Freshly shed adults are white, and much different looking than the red-eyed orange-winged creatures we are accustomed to seeing. However, after a few short hours, they will gain their characteristic pigment.

As with many other insects, the adult of the species does not eat. Instead they have only one thing on their mind—mating. The mating process is fairly short lived, and peaks in early to mid June. Males attract mates by chorusing (singing) to any interested females. After mating, the females will use their ovipositor to carve small slits in new growth on surrounding trees and lay her eggs. The eggs remain in the branches for several weeks before the young nymphs hatch and fall to the ground, starting the cycle over again.

This brood, unlike the two 17-year broods in our area have a much smaller geographic range. Meaning this year's outbreak was limited to southern Clermont and Brown counties in Ohio, and several counties in Northern Kentucky, and were mostly concentrated along the Ohio River. If you missed out on this year's Cicada emergence, don't worry. You won't have to wait another 13 years to see them. We're only 11 years away from the next emergence of brood XIV, which are set to begin rising from the ground in May of 2025.



Thank You!

The Park District is very appreciative of the many dedicated groups and individuals that have donated their time this spring to help improve our parks.



Thanks to Cub Scout Pack #241 for spreading mulch and planting a tree at Chilo Lock 34 Park.



Thanks to Brownie Troop #46959 for volunteering to plant flowers and spread mulch at the Hartman Log Cabin.



Thanks to students from the Grant Career Center for planting flowers at Pattison Park.



Thank you to Boy Scout Troop #419 of Williamsburg, OH for cutting and removing honeysuckle from along the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike trail.

Thank you to Ecology students at UC Clermont for removing invasive honeysuckle from the Wilson Nature Preserve.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Invades Clermont County

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture are continuing to monitor the status of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Clermont County. The ALB is an invasive destructive pest native to Asia. The ALB feeds on its host tree and will eventually kill it. The ALB prefers maples, but will also use buckeye, hackberry elm, ash, birch, and willows as its host tree. If the ALB continues to spread, it will be very destructive, resulting in thousands of dead trees.



Number of trees affected as of June 7

1,221,337 Trees surveyed
12,809 ALB infested trees confirmed.
11,188 ALB infested trees removed
33,284 ALB high risk trees removed
26,291 High risk trees treated

If you find evidence of the ALB on your property, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450.



Adult ALB showing egg laying sites on tree bark.



Egg laying sites in tree bark.



Tree showing multiple exit holes, where adult ALB's emerged.



An adult ALB emerging from the inside of a tree. After transforming from pupae to adult, ALB's bore perfectly round dime sized exit holes on host trees.



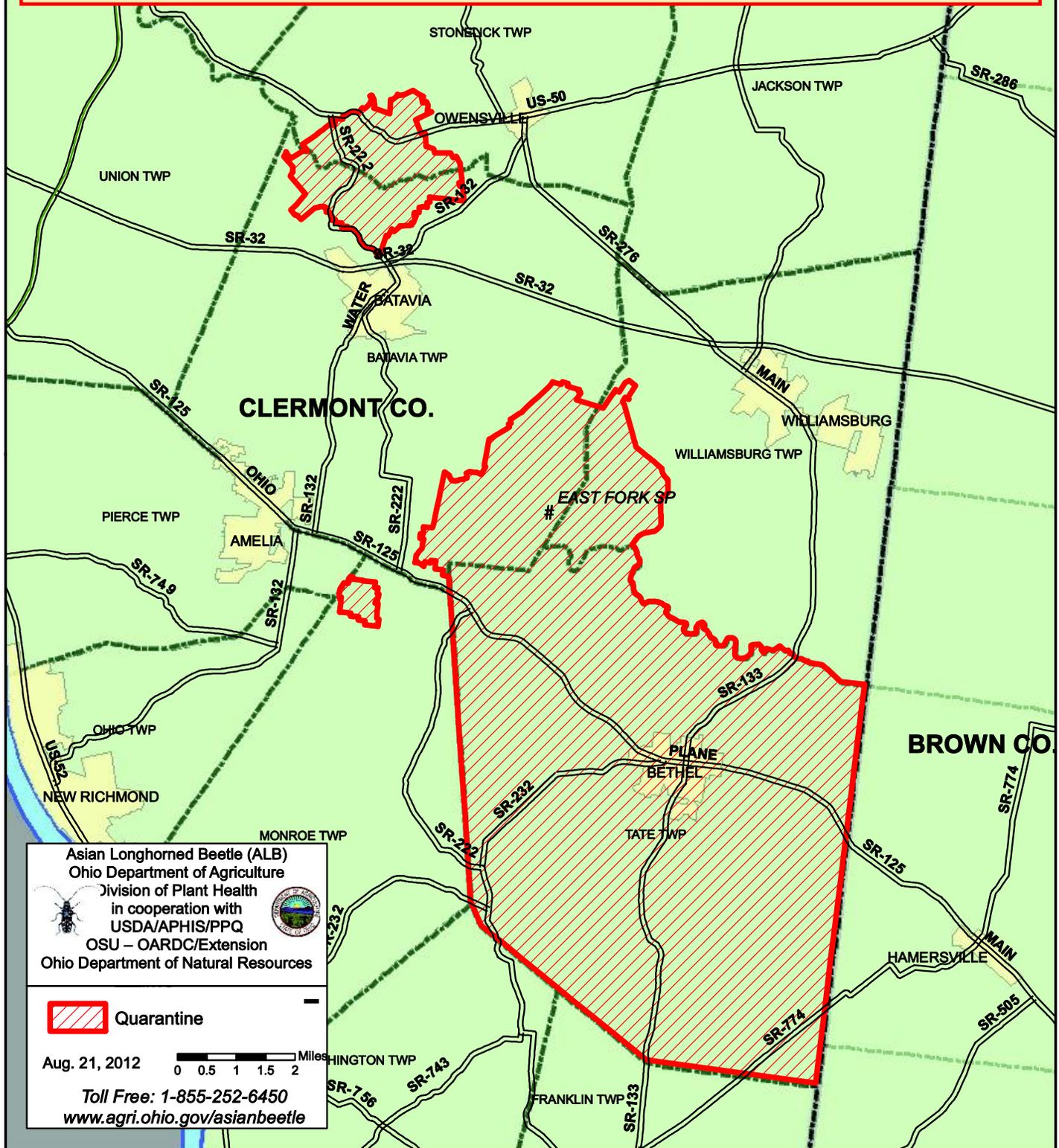
Close up of the perfectly round, dime sized exit hole.



If you find evidence of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450 For more information on the Asian Longhorn Beetle visit www.beetlebusters.info

Ohio's Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine

Firewood and other regulated articles are prohibited from leaving the quarantined areas of Clermont County, which include all of Tate Township, East Fork State Park, and the regulated areas of Monroe, Batavia and Stonelick Townships.



Picnic Shelter Rentals

The Park District has picnic shelters for rent at Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, and Pattison Park for your summer picnic or family gathering. Call the Park District administrative office at 513.732.2977 to make your reservation or check on availability.



<i>Park/Shelter</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Chilo Lock 34 Park	50	\$75
Pattison Park	150	\$100
Sycamore Woods	50	\$75
Sycamore #2	150	\$100



Sycamore Park Playground

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin

Call 513.732.2977 to make your reservation.



Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

Monday through Thursday \$200
 Friday and Sunday \$550
 Saturday \$650



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

In Season Rates (May 15–October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$125

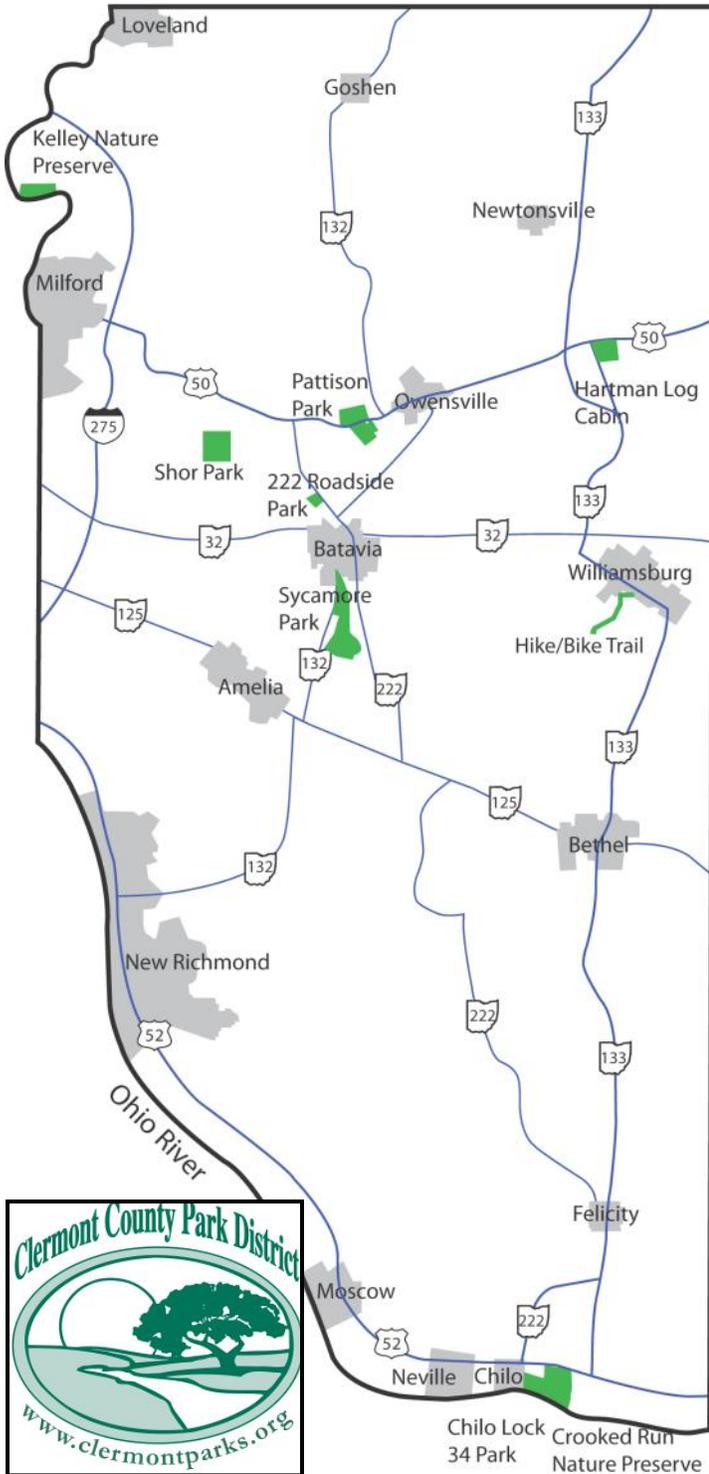
Friday through Sunday \$175

**Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Sunday \$125





Mission Statement

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historical value.

Monthly board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm in Pattison Park Lodge. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 513.732.2977.

Chilo Lock 34 Park 39 acres
 521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112
 513.876.9013

Crooked Run Nature Preserve 77 acres
 521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112

Hartman Log Cabin 5 acres
 5272 Aber Road Williamsburg, OH 45176

Kelley Nature Preserve 42 acres
 297 Center Street Loveland, OH 45140

Pattison Park 45 acres
 2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103

Shor Park 56 acres
 4659 Tealtown Road Batavia, OH 45103

Sycamore Park 53 acres
 4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Wilson Nature Preserve 145 acres
 4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Williamsburg - Batavia Hike/Bike Trail
 Broadway Road Williamsburg, OH 45176
 2.5 miles long

Contact Information

Administrative Office
 2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103
 513.732.2977
 parkdistrict@clermontcountyohio.gov

Naturalist Office
 PO Box 106 Chilo, OH 45112
 513.876.9013

Board of Park Commissioners

David Anspach Kenneth Stewart
 William Stearns, *Chairman*

Chris Clingman, *Director*

www.clermontparks.org